



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Viper 640 Fleet Adds Bite to 2008 Charleston Race Week**

**CHARLESTON, SC (January 11, 2008)** – With just over three months remaining until the action begins at 2008 Charleston Race Week, Organizers are pleased to announce that the Viper 640 will have its own class on the inshore course for the first time. “Charleston’s legendary Southern hospitality and reputation for solid racing made our decision easy,” said Justin Scott, Viper 640 Class President. “With our class growing quickly and many new boats coming to the Southeast in 2008, we expect Charleston Race Week to become an important fixture on the Viper 640 Circuit for many years.” The Vipers will race on the harbor’s inshore course, where reliable sea breeze and challenging current provide great racing with one of the most picturesque backgrounds in the United States. Also racing in the harbor will be the one-design Melges 24, J/24 and J/80 classes, while two offshore courses provide open-ocean conditions for the remainder of the fleet.

### **SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY MEANS FREE BOAT STORAGE**

Organizers have arranged free, secure trailered-boat storage to all competitors from the end of Key West Race Week (January 27<sup>th</sup>) until the start of Charleston Race Week. “We want to ease some of the burden to our traveling competitors, who make up almost 70 percent of the fleet,” said Brad Van Liew, Event Director. Teams must be registered to take advantage of this offer, and owners or representatives can download the required storage contract online at [www.charlestonraceweek.com](http://www.charlestonraceweek.com). The first 50 competitors to register will be offered complimentary dock space for the duration of the event.

### **CHARLESTON PLANS FOR ANOTHER RECORD TURNOUT**

Recognizing the great racing as well as Charleston’s recognized status as a perennial “top vacation destination,” competitors made 2007’s edition of Charleston Race Week the largest and most successful ever. The 2008 event will continue the trend, with well over 150 entrants expected. Charleston continues to attract the best racers throughout the East and Gulf coasts as well as the Midwest, and the event draws race teams from as far as California, Canada and the United Kingdom. Charleston provides the kind of night life to make any hot-shot college racer happy, while being home to countless activities and sights for the entire family to enjoy. There’s no better time than April to visit this lovely, historic town – it is cool enough for sightseeing and shopping, yet warm enough to enjoy our miles of pristine beaches.

### **MELGES 24 FLEET READIES FOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

The Melges 24 Class is one of the most vibrant in the world, and the Class's U.S. National Championship returns to Charleston this September. Many of those Nationals competitors plan to use Charleston Race Week to get acquainted with local conditions, and Organizers expect a strong turnout among this hot class. The class is showing substantial growth in the Eastern U.S. and Great Lakes, while the local fleet continues to hone its skills every weekend with its own dedicated one-design frostbite series. Of course, frostbite is relative – the teams wore shorts during last Sunday's racing!

### **NEW PRIZES, GREAT PARTIES, AND TOP RACING AWAIT YOU IN CHARLESTON**

With valuable prizes from Raymarine, fantastic parties and resort living from Charleston Harbor Resort & Marina and Gosling's Rum, and logistical support from Latis Yachting Solutions and Hall Marine Group, 2008 Charleston Race Week promises memories that will last a lifetime. Check out [www.charlestonraceweek.com](http://www.charlestonraceweek.com) for the Notice of Race, and register now to benefit from early registration fees and the complimentary dock space promotion. Don't miss the chance to stay just yards from your boat, the docks and the beach at Charleston Harbor Resort. For a limited time, special group rates are available for all competitors. Please see the Notice of Race for details.

### **About Charleston Race Week**

Charleston Race Week is an event of the South Carolina Maritime Foundation and the Charleston Ocean Racing Association (CORA). All profits from the event support educational programs aboard the *Spirit of South Carolina*, a classic tall ship serving South Carolina's youth. Charleston Race Week is sponsored by Raymarine, Gosling's Rum, Charleston Harbor Resort & Marina, Vineyard Vines, West Marine, Hall Marine Group, and Latis Yachting Solutions.

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